

WANT TO DO YOUR OWN ROADSIDE WEED CONTROL?

Management of roadside vegetation, including weeds, is the responsibility of state and local government bodies. However, some land owners may wish to control weeds on roadsides adjoining their properties themselves. If this includes you, there is some important information you must know before conducting any roadside weed control.

Edited by Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA)



Government
of South Australia

WHO MANAGES THE ROADSIDE?

A road reserve is any land set aside for a public road, and may include the carriageway, shoulder and roadside up to the boundary of adjoining properties.

Weed control is needed on road reserves to reduce fire hazard, maintain visibility, protect native vegetation and prevent the establishment and spread of weeds along road corridors and into new areas.

Most road reserves are the responsibility of local government, but some are under shared management by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), who manage the carriageway including the shoulder, and local government who manage the roadside.

Private roads are the responsibility of the land owner.

WHAT ARE DECLARED WEEDS?

Certain weeds are 'declared plants' under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. The Act requires regional Landscape boards and Green Adelaide to control declared plants on road reserves and may allow them to recover the costs of this work from the owners of adjoining land.

Not all declared plants are subject to control on all roadsides in every region. Landscape Boards set risk-based priorities for declared plant control in their regional plans.

Land owners are responsible for the control of declared weeds on their own land at their own expense.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Controlling declared plants on roadsides:
Find your Natural Resources Centre at
www.statewide.landscape.sa.gov.au

Roadside access and general weed control:
Find your local Council at www.lga.sa.gov.au/councils

Further Resources
www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/weeds_in_sa

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WEED CONTROL?

Control of non-declared weeds on a road reserve is done by the responsible body, either the local Council or DIT. Each Landscape Board is responsible for controlling plants declared for enforced control on road reserves in their region.

If regional Landscape Board priorities target a declared weed in an area, requiring land owners to undertake control on their land, then the Board is responsible for control of the weed on road reserves in the area.

While Landscape Boards are empowered to recover the costs from the owners of adjoining land, a variety of arrangements are possible.

Consult your regional Landscape Board or Green Adelaide for information on the arrangements in your area.
www.statewide.landscape.sa.gov.au

CAN ANYONE ELSE CONTROL ROADSIDE WEEDS?

Some land owners may wish to do their own roadside weed control.

This will require permission, usually from the local Council. Within local government areas, a land owner or community organisation that wants to control weeds on a road reserve must obtain written permission from the local Council to undertake this work. Outside Local Government areas, or on controlled access roads such as an expressway, they must obtain this permission from DIT.

Roadsides are also important habitats for native plants and animals. Land owners who wish to control weeds outside their properties should first consult the environmental staff at their Landscape office or Council about any native species and vegetation that need to be protected. It is also important to seek information about any vegetation management programs or community projects occurring on that stretch of road. Even accidental damage to native vegetation can be considered as 'clearance' under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, and is subject to regulation and possible penalties.

If the work requires road transport of any declared plants, or of soil, vehicles, machinery and other items contaminated with declared plant material, an authorisation will be required from the regional Landscape Board. Advice may also be obtained from the Invasive Species Unit of PIRSA, phone 8429 3436.